

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An axial ~~axial~~ piston compressor, in particular CO₂ axial piston compressor, with having a drive shaft (12), disposed in a housing (10) incorporating having an exit aperture (19) located in an end cap (18) through which the drive shaft projects out of the housing, and an axial face seal with a sliding ring (22) and counter-ring (20) that produces a seal between the two components drive shaft (12) and housing (10),

characterized in that the counter-ring (20) forms an integral part of the housing (10) is integral with end cap (18) and sliding ring (22) has a groove (26) on its bearing surface that cooperates with counter-ring (20).

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)


Claim 7 (New): 7. The axial piston compressor defined in Claim 1 wherein said counter-ring (20) is formed from ceramic material.

Claim 8 (New): 8. The axial piston compressor defined in Claim 7 wherein the ceramic material is SiC.

Application No. 10/089,268
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It is earnestly believed that all of the Examiner's objections have been met and discussed and that this case is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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